



2018 LWV Voters Guide for the Democratic Primary Election of The 10th Congressional District of Virginia

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Description of Election, Dual Primary

This election is a **dual primary**, so voters must choose either a Democratic Party ballot or a Republican Party ballot. **You can't have vote in both!** You [can learn more about dual primaries here from this short video from Prince William County](#).

Elected to a two-year term each U. S. Representative serves the people of a specific Congressional district by introducing bills, serving on committees, and providing constituent services among other duties. The annual salary of each Representative is \$174,000. Virginia has eleven Congressional districts.

The Democratic Party Primary election on June 12, 2018 serves to select the one Democratic candidate to be on the November 6, 2018 ballot for the 10th Congressional District. There is also a Republican Party Primary election on June 12th for the 10th Congressional District.

There is also a June 12th Republican Party Primary throughout the state to select the U.S. Senate Republican candidate to be on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

See the Virginia Department of Elections website for all the races and candidates. <https://www.vote.virginia.gov>

Candidates in the Democratic Primary (choose 1):

Julia E. Biggins



Party: Democrat

Biographical Info:

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Education: BS Microbiology; University of Illinois-Champaign PhD Molecular Virology; Baylor College of Medicine; Dissertation: HIV Transmission

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Questions:

Q: *What policies do you propose to ensure election integrity in the U.S.?*

A: The largest issue at hand is participation. That is why I strongly oppose laws, especially voter I.D. laws, that impede the ability of voters to participate in elections. We must also make voting easier. In the state of Virginia, we need "No Excuse" absentee and early voting. It is also important that polling places have the resources necessary to handle election day crowds. This should include adequate machines, staff and back up paper ballots in the event of a machine malfunction. Lastly, we need to take seriously cyber threats that can impact our voting technology or unduly sway elections with misinformation.

Q: *What changes would you support in our healthcare system to ensure high quality, accessible, affordable health care for all Americans?*

A: While the Affordable Care Act was a major step in the right direction, the time has come for the implementation of a single payer universal healthcare system with a focus on prevention. This transition should also include giving the government the ability to negotiate drug prices in addition to changing patent law to prevent big pharma from patenting life saving drugs. As an infectious disease scientist, I recognize the importance of ensuring continued and expanded funding for disease research as a part of any quality healthcare system. Lastly, we must address a looming doctor shortage that may reach 104,000 by the year 2030. In order to combat this threat to our healthcare infrastructure, we need a STEM program in every school to encourage and enable young students to gain an interest in the sciences early. We must also reduce the burden of student loans felt by so many medical students by providing reduced or free public college in exchange for a civil service requirement.

Q: *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence in the U.S.?*

A: As many other candidates have proposed, I fully support the banning of assault weapons, bump stocks and high magazine clips as well as closing the private sale and exchange loophole, and ensuring all firearms are registered. I also believe that our gun problem is unique and that we lack the data needed to fully understand it. That is why I strongly believe that we must repeal the Dickey Amendment and restore the CDC's ability to study gun violence. Lastly, I am the only candidate to support a national gun buyback program like the one utilized in Australia following the 1996 cafe massacre.

Q: *What policies such as tariffs, taxes, tax cuts, etc. do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

A: Firstly, we need to remove the tax burden from the middle and working classes and ensure the rich pay their fair share. This must include increasing taxes on long term capital gains to come into alignment with taxes on traditional income. I support tax incentives that reward environmental stewardship and the creation of jobs here at home. I also believe in tax incentives and credits that help small businesses remain competitive with their larger counterparts. Tariffs are tricky and need to be applied carefully. While there is logic to placing tariffs on certain imported goods to help balance revenue and trade disparities, it is important we never create a one size fits all solution as the Trump administration has. It makes little sense to place the same 20% tariff on steel coming from Canada as on steel coming from China when we don't have a massive trade imbalance with Canada and when Canada does many things right on the labor front.

Q: *What is your position on using a citizenship question in the 2020 Census survey?*

A: Strongly opposed. This tactic will reduce participation, skewing data and possibly short changing areas out of needed federal funding. We also run the risk of individuals being targeted for honestly participating in the Census.

Q: *What are your proposals for an immigration policy?*

A: To start, we need to stop The Wall now. It will be costly, devastating to our environment, and most likely, not very effective. We have the most militarized border of any two nations not at war, and since the expanded militarization of our border under Reagan, unlawful immigration has increased. The wall will continue to contribute to this issue by keeping undocumented workers in, not out. We also must protect DACA recipients and provide them a clear path to citizenship. Lastly, we must oppose in the strongest possible way any travel ban predicated on religion or race.

Q: *What are your legislative priorities?*

A: I have a number of issues I would like to bring to the forefront. If it isn't done by the time I arrive in Congress, one of my first acts would be to move to repeal the Dickey Amendment. I would also join a growing number of already elected representatives in pushing forward a single payer healthcare policy. I would work everyday to strengthen our environment by fighting for more environmental regulations, including implementing a Carbon Tax, and I would work to ensure a massive investment into green energy and mass transit. Overall, I would be prioritizing fact based solutions to our complex problems.

Alison K. Friedman



Party: Democrat

Biographical Info:

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Education: Stanford University, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, 2001 Oxford University, Executive Masters in Business Administration, 2017

Experience: Deputy Director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, US State Department VP and Director of Country Relations, Global Fund to End Slavery Director of San Francisco Office and California Policy Director, People For the American Way

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AlisonforVirginia/>

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Questions:

Q: *What policies do you propose to ensure election integrity in the U.S.?*

A: These issues have been important to me since my time working for People for the American Way. I learned that America is stronger when more people vote. So I support increasing access to the polls through automatic registration, expanded early voting, and online voter registration. We must fight voter suppression and do everything we can to ensure that even the slightest suggestion of impropriety at the ballot box is unacceptable. This includes the use of paper ballots that can be verified, increased cybersecurity standards, increase post-election audits, increase voting machine certification requirements, and ensure the return of paper absentee ballots.

Q: *What changes would you support in our healthcare system to ensure high quality, accessible, affordable health care for all Americans?*

A: Health care is a right, plain and simple. We must defend the ACA from further attack, repair the parts that have been dismantled or rendered ineffective by the Republicans, and improve upon its shortcomings where we can. In Congress, I'll work to improve health care and expand options for all Virginians, including the more than 300,000 who rely on Obamacare. I'll work to protect Medicare, which is at risk of massive cuts thanks to the Republicans' corporate tax cuts, and lower prescription drug costs. And I'll always fight for women's reproductive rights.

Q: *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence in the U.S.?*

A: The NRA has entirely too much power in our system, and one of my top priorities will be earning their F-rating. There are common sense measures that we can bring to gun violence in this country - universal background checks, closing gun show loopholes, banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines. I also support measures preventing domestic abusers from obtaining firearms and an end to concealed carry reciprocity.

Q: *What policies such as tariffs, taxes, tax cuts, etc. do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

A: The recent Republican tax bill is disproportionately favorable to America's wealthiest individuals and largest corporations, widening America's inequality gap. One way it does this is by putting an expiration date on the tax cuts for the middle class while making them permanent for corporations. If Congress doesn't act, millions of middle class families could see a tax increase in under a decade. One important fix to this deeply flawed piece of legislation would be the sunseting of those corporate tax benefits in favor of more relief for middle class families.

Q: *What is your position on using a citizenship question in the 2020 Census survey?*

A: I oppose the inclusion of a question asking about a person's citizenship status for the 2020 Census.

Q: *What are your proposals for an immigration policy?*

A: I would support congressional action for passage of the DREAM Act and would also seek to pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship, values the economic and social contributions of immigrant women, and protects them from violence at the hands of employers and partners.

Q: *What are your legislative priorities?*

A: Protecting health care from further Republican attacks and expanding access to affordable care is a top priority. This includes standing up to pharmaceutical companies profiting from the Republican tax plan while charging higher prices. Additionally, we need to find ways for families in this part of Virginia to be able to spend more time together. This includes improved and expanded infrastructure to ease commutes, and providing federal employees and contractors more teleworking options to reduce congestion on our roads while making it easier to work from home. And more broadly, getting the money out of politics so the voice of the people can get back in. I believe that we must immediately repeal Citizens United, pass the DISCLOSE Act and the KOCH Act to let voters know who is behind the dark money groups. Voters have a right to know where political donations are coming from, plain and simple.

Dan I. Helmer



Party: Democrat

Biographical Info:

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Education: U.S. Military Academy at West Point - B.S. History, 2003 University of Oxford - MPhil, International Relations, 2006

Experience: Officer- U.S Army, 2003-2014 Project Leader- Boston Consulting Group, 2014-2017
Candidate for Congress - 2017-2018

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Questions:

Q: *What policies do you propose to ensure election integrity in the U.S.?*

A: It's undeniable that Russia meddled in our elections and is going to try to do it again. Under the current administration, they know that there is no risk of push back. The most important thing we can do is to elect a Democratic Congress that will impose sanctions and force the administration to follow through. When there is no consequence for their actions, foreign powers will continue to interfere in our electoral process, and the only way to counter their attacks is to elect a Congress that has the courage to hold them accountable.

Q: *What changes would you support in our healthcare system to ensure high quality, accessible, affordable health care for all Americans?*

A: Too many people still don't have access to quality, affordable healthcare. I believe healthcare is a right, so I support a Medicare for All option, which would create a public option that people could choose to buy into (at a sliding price scale based on income) if they don't have insurance through their employer, or want something other than the private insurance options available on the exchanges. The ACA was a good first step, but even with the exchanges, there are still too many people who don't have access to an affordable option, so this would fill that gap.

Q: *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence in the U.S.?*

A: My wife, Karen, a public school teacher, and my sons, who attend school down the hall from their mom, have to do drills three times a year to prepare for the day an active shooter comes to their school. I signed up for the Army knowing that I might be sent to a war zone, but they didn't sign up for this. I've seen the carnage that these weapons of war can cause, and know they have no place on our streets or in our schools. There are common sense steps that we can and must take to make our streets safer. I support instituting universal background checks on gun sales; banning bump stocks, high-capacity magazines, and assault weapons; and repealing the Dickey amendment so that the CDC can study gun violence as a public health issue.

Q: *What policies such as tariffs, taxes, tax cuts, etc. do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

A: Many of my family members launched small businesses after arriving in America. When I began my career in business, it was with deep admiration for the grit and courage behind such successful entrepreneurship. As a member of Congress, I will encourage enterprise, foster a smart regulatory environment, and protect consumers. However, we do not need to choose between growing the economy and protecting the environment. Initiatives such as investing in renewable energy, developing a secure and efficient electricity distribution system, and updating our transportation infrastructure can simultaneously protect our environment while creating high-quality American jobs. Similarly, we do not need to choose between growing the economy and protecting workers and consumers. Furthermore, I support repealing the tax bill that gave a tax cut to Donald Trump and did far too little to help working families.

Q: *What is your position on using a citizenship question in the 2020 Census survey?*

A: I oppose inserting a citizenship question into the 2020 Census. First of all, it appears that the motivation for such a question is intimidation of immigrants. Secondly, inserting a new question into the Census is normally a lengthy process involving trial studies to assess how the new question will affect the Census. No such process has occurred, and without testing, it is too risky to insert a new question that could result in certain populations being undercounted because they are deterred from taking the Census.

Q: *What are your proposals for an immigration policy?*

A: I am the son and grandson of refugees and immigrants. I have seen firsthand the power of the American dream and am worried that the same opportunities that were offered to my family are not being afforded to all who seek it. I believe that this country is indeed a city on a hill and we should welcome with open arms those who are willing to sacrifice to reach it. As such, I sponsored four immigrants who served beside me in Afghanistan, one of whom eventually gained full citizenship through military service. Immigrants are often the hardest working and most dedicated Americans, and we should welcome and encourage that. In the short term, the use of Dreamers as a political football by the Trump administration is unacceptable, and we need to find a permanent solution that includes a path to citizenship.

Q: *What are your legislative priorities?*

A: Our economy is working for the ultra-rich, and it's being held in place by a corrupt campaign finance system that pushes politicians to serve the highest bidder over the highest need. The majority of Americans support things like common sense gun control, increasing access to healthcare, and reforming our criminal justice system – but corporate special interest money has a powerful grip on our politicians. Making meaningful, long-term reform will require removing this money from our system so that our elected officials start working for their constituents. To support this issue, I support a Constitutional Amendment that will repeal *Citizens United v. FEC*. Additionally, gun safety is deeply important to me. As someone who has carried assault rifles in combat zones, I know that they have no place on our streets. I will fight for bans on assault rifles and bump stocks, and limits on the purchase of ammunition and high-capacity magazines.

Paul E. Pelletier



Party: Democrat

Biographical Info:

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Questions:

Q: *What policies do you propose to ensure election integrity in the U.S.?*

A: The cyber attacks in the 2016 election demonstrates the need to ensure that future elections are protected from foreign interference. Protecting our democracy should be a bipartisan issue that must be addressed and we must work to identify and counter any vulnerabilities in our current voting system. In Congress, I will work across the aisle to protect future elections from foreign interference. I support U.S. Senators Gillibrand and Graham's bipartisan legislation to establish a National Commission on the Cybersecurity of the United States Election Systems. I support the commission's plan to identify prevention measures which address cybersecurity vulnerabilities, review foreign cyber interference in elections in other countries in order to understand potential cybersecurity threats, and will seriously consider their recommendations to protect our election infrastructure for federal, state, and local elections.

Q: *What changes would you support in our healthcare system to ensure high quality, accessible, affordable health care for all Americans?*

A: All Americans should have access to affordable quality healthcare. I am the only candidate running to represent VA-10 in Congress who has reduced the cost of healthcare. I created the nationwide Healthcare Fraud Strike Forces for the DOJ, that continues saving taxpayers over \$10 billion. I have seen first hand how the govt failing to negotiate drug prices with Big Pharma directly affected senior citizens; I have seen the costly disconnect between the efficient practice of medicine and government regulation; I know that more than ten cents of every Medicare dollar is being lost to fraud. We need to eliminate the fraud and pass the savings on to taxpayers by bringing down the cost of healthcare. I know how to do that. As your Congressman, it will be one of my highest priorities to continue to reform and improve the efficiencies of our healthcare system, reduce the cost, improve the quality of services and decrease the rising costs of prescription drugs.

Q: *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence in the U.S.?*

A: As a former federal prosecutor, I am the only candidate in this race who has actually taken guns off the streets and out of the hands of criminals. I know what gun laws are effective and I know what new laws we need on the books to keep all of us, especially our kids, safe. We need “Red Flag” laws that will help take guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals before they harm others. We need to reenact the Assault Weapons Ban. From 1994 through 2004 when the law was in effect, there were 15 mass shootings, with 95 fatalities. Since its expiration there have been 27 mass shootings with 350 fatalities. Unacceptable! Universal background checks, smart gun technologies and the banning of bump-stocks and high capacity magazines are popular solutions that will save lives. In Congress, I will stand up to the NRA, as well as their puppets in Congress, and work tirelessly to enact common sense gun reform.

Q: *What policies such as tariffs, taxes, tax cuts, etc. do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

A: I would end the unfair tax breaks for corporations and billionaires that the President and Congressional Republicans passed in the recent tax bill. I would restore the full state and local tax deductions that even Barbara Comstock voted to eliminate. I would also re-establish the insurance mandate that the Republican tax scam repealed. We should support targeted tax breaks to entice business to relocate to Northern Virginia, such as renewable energy and technology. I would offer incentives to encourage young people to consider alternatives to college, such as trade schools. For some, learning a skill to perform emerging well-paying jobs is better than being saddled with college loans and an education for a job that may not exist.

Q: *What is your position on using a citizenship question in the 2020 Census survey?*

A: I am against including a citizenship question in the Census survey

Q: *What are your proposals for an immigration policy?*

A: Immigrants are a vital and important part of the fabric of our great country and of Northern Virginia. We need comprehensive immigration reform. In 2013, bipartisan legislation was introduced, the “Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013” which passed the Senate with a strong majority. The Republican House refused to act on the bill. We need strong leaders in Congress to pass comprehensive immigration legislation that both strengthens our borders and provides a path to citizenship for those who are productive members of our society. This does not mean building a wall around our country. The

DACA and TPS programs must be renewed. Republicans have refused to enact legislation to protect the legal status of Dreamers and those immigrants holding TPS. I will not be silent. I will champion the bipartisan and comprehensive immigration reform that most Northern Virginians want and that is essential for the safety of our country.

Q: *What are your legislative priorities?*

A: 1. Root out fraud in our healthcare system and put the savings back into the system, thereby driving down costs so that all Americans have access to affordable healthcare. 2. Ensure that the gun safety laws on the books are adhered to as well as enact common sense gun reform that will keep all Americans, especially our youth, safe in their homes, communities and schools. 3. Work towards a stronger economy, creation of good paying jobs, protect and preserve our environment and fight for infrastructure projects for Northern Virginia. I believe each of these priorities strengthens the others. 4. Protect our dreamers and create a path to citizenship. Period. 5. Hold the Trump administration, as well as corrupt lobbyists and politicians, accountable for their wrongdoing to the American people. I did this for nearly three decades as a federal prosecutor and in Congress I will stand up to anyone, no matter how powerful or connected they are.

Lindsey Davis Stover

Party: Democrat

Biographical Info:

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Education: BA from Baylor University, Masters in Public Policy from Baylor University, Masters in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School.

Experience: 12 years of federal legislative experience, including Chief of Staff on Capitol Hill and Senior Advisor in the Obama Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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Questions:

Q: *What policies do you propose to ensure election integrity in the U.S.?*

A: I believe that election integrity is one of the most important issues this year.

Q: *What changes would you support in our healthcare system to ensure high quality, accessible, affordable health care for all Americans?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence in the U.S.?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What policies such as tariffs, taxes, tax cuts, etc. do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What is your position on using a citizenship question in the 2020 Census survey?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What are your proposals for an immigration policy?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What are your legislative priorities?*

A: - no response -

Jennifer T. Wexton



Party: Democrat

Biographical Info:

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Website: <http://www.jenniferwexton.com>

Education: BA University of Maryland; JD William and Mary

Experience: Virginia State Senator 2014 - Present; Assistant Commonwealth Attorney 2001 - 2005

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Questions:

Q: *What policies do you propose to ensure election integrity in the U.S.?*

A: Attacks on the integrity of our elections are an existential threat to American democracy and there is every reason to believe that bad actors like Russia will continue similar assaults in the 2018 election. Advertisements on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter need to contain disclaimer information and be subject to stronger vetting requirements to prevent the spread of fake news and propaganda. In other countries, Russia has hacked elections by tampering with voter rolls and voting machines. States and localities need to ensure that the software they use to administer elections is up to date and secure. Furthermore, states need to upgrade their voting machines to ensure models that include a paper trail are used and audit results in the wake of an election. I would support federal funding and assistance to the states to ensure these changes are implemented.

Q: *What changes would you support in our healthcare system to ensure high quality, accessible, affordable health care for all Americans?*

A: I believe access to affordable healthcare is a right for all Americans. In the State Senate, I have fought alongside fellow Democrats to expand Medicaid to the more than 300,000 hardworking Virginians who fall in the coverage gap, and to bring over \$10 billion back to Virginia's economy. I have fought for a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions and to more easily access reproductive and contraceptive services. I have also been a champion for mental health reform and combating the heroin and opioid crisis in Virginia. In Congress, I will fight to protect coverage for those with preexisting conditions, eliminate lifetime caps, fund the Children's Health Insurance Program, and keep Medicare and Medicaid strong and accessible. I support allowing the Federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices, and am open to exploring the feasibility of plans like Tim Kaine's Medicare X which would allow any person to buy a health care plan from Medicare at a reasonable cost.

Q: *What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence in the U.S.?*

A: I am a strong advocate for gun violence prevention and have consistently fought for common sense legislation to keep our communities safe. In the State Senate, I have championed and voted for bills that would establish universal background checks and close the gun show loophole, ban bumpstocks, mandate the reporting of lost and stolen firearms, and keep firearms out of the hands of domestic abusers and those convicted of stalking. In Congress, I will support legislation that expands mandatory background checks on gun purchases, closes loopholes that allow criminals to purchase firearms, establishes a ban on sales of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and not only allows the federal government to study gun violence as a public health issue, but also gives them the resources to do so. I am honored to be a Mom's Demand Action candidate of distinction and also be the candidate endorsed by the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence for my work in Richmond.

Q: *What policies such as tariffs, taxes, tax cuts, etc. do you propose to promote economic security for all Americans?*

A: I believe we need to create an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Wages and benefits are not keeping pace with costs. In the State Senate, I voted in favor of several measures that would raise the minimum wage, and have introduced legislation that would ensure women doing the same job as men receive

equal pay and employment benefits. I also introduced legislation that would have established Paid Medical Leave in Virginia. As our state and our nation evolve from an industrial to a technology-based economy, our workers must be prepared for the jobs of the future, not those of the past. I support increased investments in career and vocational training, and retraining for those who have been displaced from the workforce. In Congress, I will support increasing wages and salaries, establishing paid family and medical leave programs nationwide, revitalizing America's middle-class, and protecting and expanding workers' rights.

Q: *What is your position on using a citizenship question in the 2020 Census survey?*

A: I strongly oppose having a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. The census determines how and where federal resources and electoral districts are distributed and drawn. The Trump Administration's inclusion of a citizenship question is designed to cause fear among immigrant communities. As a result, they will likely be underreported, and therefore underserved and underrepresented.

Q: *What are your proposals for an immigration policy?*

A: America is a nation of immigrants and my family is among those who came here seeking freedom, safety, and opportunity. Rather than working together to find bipartisan policies that will improve our immigration system, the President and Congressional Republicans are promoting fear-mongering tactics, like raids and roundups, against immigrants. As State Senator, I have consistently voted against and spoken out against Republican attempts to stigmatize immigrants, including their anti-Sharia legislation, the so-called "sanctuary cities" bills, and legislation that would have required Virginia to track and report on the location of refugees who resettle here. I believe Congress needs to pass comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship for immigrant families, protects DREAMers and their futures, and shuts down inhumane private detention centers.

Q: *What are your legislative priorities?*

A: In the State Senate, I have always been in the minority party, but have found bipartisan success with legislation that helps kids and families. I've written and passed laws that make our children safer in daycares and online, combat the heroin and opioid crisis, help ease traffic congestion, and get much-needed resources to victims of domestic violence. In Congress, my legislative priorities will always be guided by my core values. I believe that our role as leaders is to do the most good for the most people. I believe that leaders must be accountable to those they seek to represent. I believe that every child deserves a world-class public education, no matter their zip code. I believe that no one should face discrimination because of the god they worship or whom they love. I believe that access to affordable, quality health care is a right, not a privilege. And I believe that it shouldn't be easier to buy a gun than it is to vote.